

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement on a Commerce Department indicating stronger than expected economic growth in the 4th quarter of 2009 at 5.7 percent. **“The Commerce Department report is a clear indication that things are looking up for the American economy. This is the strongest quarterly growth our economy has experienced in over six years and that is something we can all appreciate.**

□

More must be done and Congress must continue to focus on job creation and fiscal responsibility in the coming months. This recovery is slow, but it’s real. And it is happening because we are reinvesting in our nation – creating new jobs through the Stimulus, bolstering consumer confidence and being responsible with our tax dollars.

□

The American spirit is hearty and that’s what will see us through these challenging times. I applaud the \$5,000 small business tax credit that the Administration announced today that will help companies hire workers and increase wages. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to find innovative ways to continue this progress.”

The Commerce Department report bested prior projections that October-December growth in the GDP would measure 4.6 percent. The stronger growth is due in part to business inventories remaining stronger than usual in the 4th

quarter.

#